

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, and 4-29 are pending, with claims 1, 8, 13, 18, and 23 being independent. Claims 12, 16, 22, and 28 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 7, 8, 11, 13, 15, 18, 20, 23, 25, and 29 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102 & 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 13-15, 18, 23, and 25-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by Lindgren (Lindgren et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,980,545). Claims 4, 10, and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Lindgren (Lindgren et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,980,545) in view of Sawada et al (Sawada et al, U.S. Publication No. 2002/0016858). Claims 7, 12, 16-22, 28, and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Lindgren (Lindgren et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,980,545). Withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully respected in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

Claim 16 previously recited "the destination address comprises a deprecated directed broadcast address." In regard to claim 16, as well as 7 and 12, the Office concedes that Lindgren "does not explicitly teach that the routing table (FIG. 4) comprises a deprecated directed broadcast address" Office action, page 5). Nonetheless, the Office (*Id.*) asserts that "It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to enter any kind of address into the routing table for the processor to implement for filtering destination addresses matching entries in the table" (emphasis added). This contention is respectfully traversed.

MPEP § 2143.01 states (underlining added for emphasis) "If proposed modification would render the prior art invention being modified unsatisfactory for its intended purpose, then there is no suggestion or motivation to make the proposed modification. In re Gordon, 733 F.2d 900, 221 USPQ 1125 (Fed. Cir. 1984)." The Office's proposed modification would render Lindgren unsatisfactory for its intended purpose.

In regard to Lindgren's routing table, Lindgren discloses (emphasis added):

Having received a data packet header from the data packet processor 22, the router processor will derive the destination address thereof [and] access the routing table 28 for determining which output interface, port, and channel thereof to use when transmitting the data packet associated with said header. Having determined so, the routing processor will send a message to the data packet processor 22 via the processor bus, instructing said data packet processor 22 on which interface and channel that the associated data packet is to be transmitted via.

See Lindgren at col. 5, lines 58-67. One of ordinary skill in the art recognizes that Lindgren's routing table does not serve to filter packets. For example, by inserting a deprecated directed broadcast address into Lindgren's routing table, Lindgren's router, upon receipt of a packet comprising the inserted deprecated directed broadcast address, would forward said packet and not drop said packet. One of ordinary skill in the art recognizes that a packet with a destination address including a deprecated directed broadcast address should not be forwarded, for at least the reason that it is deprecated.

Furthermore, Lindgren's purpose is clear: "An object of the invention is therefore to provide a routing apparatus designed

to reduce the risk of lack of capacity, thereby limiting the occurrence of blocking or loss of data in relation to the routing processor" (col. 1, lines 55-59; emphasis added). Inserting a deprecated directed broadcast address into Lindgren's routing table without further modification to Lindgren's router would not only result in routing packets that should not be forwarded, but would increase the risk of lack of capacity because the Lindgren's router would then have to forward both valid packets and those packets matching the inserted deprecated directed broadcast address.

Such an insertion purposed by the Office is clearly inapposite to Lindgren's intended purpose. Hence, the Office's purposed modification makes Lindgren's invention unsatisfactory for its intended purpose. Thus, there is no suggestion or motivation to make the proposed modification according to MPEP § 2143.01. For at least these reasons, the subject matter of claim 16 should be patentable over Lindgren.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to now recite "a memory coupled with the processor, the memory being configured to instruct the processor to load a routing data structure configured to store information indicating a received data packet is to be dropped if the received data packet includes a predetermined non-forwarding destination address comprising a destination address that is invalid for packets traveling between networks, wherein the stored information comprises a deprecated directed broadcast address" (emphasis added). For reasons similar to those previously noted, Lindgren does not teach, suggest, or make obvious that the stored information (indicating a received data packet is to be dropped) comprises a deprecated directed broadcast address. Sawada fails to cure this deficiency of Lindgren. For at least these reasons, independent claim 1 should be patentable over Lindgren.

Independent claim 8 has been amended to now recite "storing information in a routing data structure, wherein the information indicates that a packet having a predetermined non-forwarding destination address is to be dropped, the predetermined non-forwarding destination address comprising a destination address, comprising a deprecated directed broadcast address, that is invalid for packets traveling between networks" (emphasis added). For at least reasons similar to those previously noted for claim 1, independent claim 8 should be patentable over Lindgren.

Independent claim 13 has been amended to now recite "selectively routing the packet based on the routing information stored in the routing data structure, said selectively routing including dropping the packet if the destination address comprises a predetermined non-forwarding address comprising a destination address, comprising a deprecated directed broadcast address, that is invalid for packets traveling between networks" (emphasis added). For at least reasons similar to those previously noted for claim 1, independent claim 13 should be patentable over Lindgren.

Independent claim 18 has been amended to now recite "memory means for storing a data structure comprising a destination address routing table having entries, wherein at least one entry contains an indication that a packet having a predetermined non-forwarding destination address that resolves to the least one entry is to be dropped, the predetermined non-forwarding destination address comprising a destination address, comprising a deprecated directed broadcast address, that is invalid for packets traveling between networks" (emphasis added). For at least reasons similar to those previously noted for claim 1, independent claim 18 should be patentable over Lindgren.

Independent claim 23 has been amended to now recite "loading one or more routing tables with destination addresses and information selectively indicating either a next-hop address for a packet or that the packet is to be dropped, wherein at least one of the destination addresses comprises a predetermined non-forwarding address for which the information indicates the packet is to be dropped, the predetermined non-forwarding destination address comprising a destination address, comprising a deprecated directed broadcast address, that is invalid for packets traveling between networks" (emphasis added). For at least reasons similar to those previously noted for claim 1, independent claim 23 should be patentable over Lindgren.

For at least their dependency on independent claims that should be patentable over Lindgren, dependent claims 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 17, 19-21, 24-27, and 29 should also be patentable over Lindgren.

The cancellations of claims 12, 16, 22, and 28 obviate their respective rejections.

Concluding Remarks

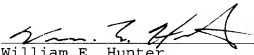
It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that issue or comment. Because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

It is respectfully suggested, for all of these reasons, that the current rejections are overcome, that none of the cited art teaches or suggests the features which are claimed, and therefore that all of these claims should be in condition for allowance. A formal notice of allowance is thus respectfully requested.

Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06 1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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